

## What if I'm over 18 and I'm not getting services?

You can contact your caseworker and you can request a hearing with your judge until your 19th birthday. Contact your judge by looking in the government pages of the phone book under the name of your county and then under "judges" or by visiting [www.flcourts.org](http://www.flcourts.org) and clicking on circuit courts. If you are not sure how to request a hearing with the judge, you can contact the GAL Program at **1-866-341-1425**.

## What do I do to get jurisdiction extended?

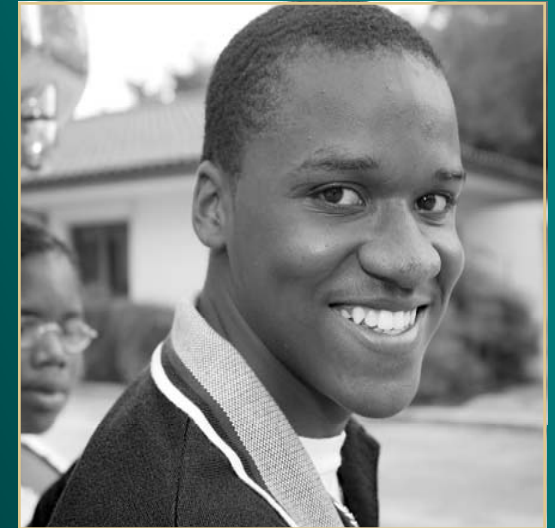
You have to fill out a form, which is called a petition, and give it to the judge. If you do not have a petition to fill out, are not sure how to fill it out, or if you have any questions about extended jurisdiction, please contact the GAL Program at **1-866-341-1425**.



**For More Information**  
**Contact the GAL Program**  
**1-866-341-1425**

Provided by the Florida Guardian ad Litem Program

## EXTENDED JURISDICTION



**If you are 17 years old  
and in foster care,  
Extended Jurisdiction  
can help protect your  
future.**

## Do you worry about any of the following issues?

- ♦ **Where will I live when I turn 18?**
- ♦ **How will I pay for housing and bills?**
- ♦ **Will I be receiving money through independent living?**
- ♦ **Should I be getting social security payments after I turn 18?**
- ♦ **Has my caseworker arranged for services to continue after I turn 18, such as job counseling and therapy?**
- ♦ **Has my immigration status been resolved?**

**Extended Jurisdiction can help you if you do not know the answers to one or more of these questions.**

## What does “Extended Jurisdiction” mean?

Normally abuse and neglect cases end when you turn 18 years old. Extended jurisdiction means that the court case can stay open until you turn 19 so that your judge can make sure you get the services you are supposed to be getting. These services include independent living services (aftercare support, transitional support and the road-to-independence scholarship), mental health services and developmental disabilities services. The case can be closed before your 19th birthday if your service issues are resolved.

If you have immigration issues, the court can keep your case open longer, until your 22nd birthday.

## What are the benefits of Extended Jurisdiction?

Extended Jurisdiction allows your judge to help you if you are not getting what you need from the system. Without extended jurisdiction, your judge will no longer be able to hear your case.

## Will I have to stay in foster care if jurisdiction is extended?

You will not have to stay in foster care if the judge extends jurisdiction. The only purpose for extending jurisdiction is to allow your judge to help you if you are not getting the services you are entitled to receive.

## Who can ask for Extended Jurisdiction?

If you are at least 17 years old and will still be in foster care when you turn 18, you can ask the court to keep your case open until you turn 19.

A good time to ask for extended jurisdiction would be at the Judicial Review Hearing which should be scheduled near your 17<sup>th</sup> birthday.

